

Correspondence

Alien propaganda

The current Federal election campaign has elicited far more acrimony than usual, and certainly far more than is called for. While this may be understandable, and certainly the right of Canadians, it is becoming increasingly concerning to me that certain people are using the election to espouse their own beliefs when their right to do so is questionable. In particular, I am referring to non-Canadian academics who are using their positions to attempt to influence their captive audiences; that is, the students. It is very disconcerting to hear a professor blandly and continuously ridicule the Canadian political parties, the candidates, and by implication, the Canadian electorate. The most blatant example I have observed had a professor, who is not a Canadian, ridicule the Parties, the candidates and the Canadian political system. This diatribe was sufficed by a series of insulting comments to the effect that Canada was 'colonial', and that its economy, political system and so on were inferior to that of the almighty U.S.A. These comments were from a person whom Canada had welcomed and who came from a country where, undoubtedly, democracy is unknown and poverty and corruption are rife.

Canadians have essentially the political and economic system that they want, freely chosen. Furthermore, we are more than able to decide our own future without the unsolicited opinions of foreigners with anti-Canadian sentiments and a right-wing axe to grind.

One of the principal freedoms of people in Canada is that of unhindered movement. Our borders are wide open and

anyone who considers Canada to be too backward and 'socialistic' and who believes that the U.S.A. is so markedly superior, is perfectly free to emigrate.

Duane V.J. Muires

Life after Finch

As appalled as I was at your editorial coverage of York's GAA contract negotiations, I find *Excalibur's* lack of coverage of the current GAA strike at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute (you know, that place downtown with 20,000 students) more than irresponsible.

After six months of negotiations, 240 part-time and sessional faculty at Ryerson went out on strike on February 1 in support of their contract demands. That the decision to strike was made in the face of sub-zero temperatures and an inadequate strike fund surely indicates the absence of alternatives for the Ryerson GAA. The issues are seniority, hiring practices and salary. While walking the picket line in front of the photo arts building last week I had the opportunity to speak with students in photo arts and media studies who are seriously concerned with how the shoddy treatment of part-time faculty jeopardizes the quality of education at Ryerson. They told me that some of their best teachers are leaving Ryerson because they find four month contracts unbearable. Instructors regularly find out they have jobs only 3 or 4 days in advance of the first day of classes. Students are concerned that this leaves their instructors with inadequate time to prepare their courses. (How can you teach a film history class on one week's notice when films often have to be booked months in advance?)

The issues of the Ryerson strike

are important ones which deserve our support. I would like to urge members of the York community (especially GAA members) to show support for the Ryerson GAA. A warm welcome waits for anyone willing to spend some time on one of the many picket lines. If you haven't the time or the long underwear to walk a picket line, the Ryerson GAA strike fund is in danger of being non-existent and could use your financial support.

Furthermore, I would like to point out to *Excalibur* that there is life south of Finch Avenue and that perhaps it might be useful to venture beyond the boundaries of its self-styled provincialism.

Pat Chuchryk



Trade union city blues

Expressed in the Editorial of January 17 is the view that the members of the GAA 'are not workers but aspiring professionals—and professionalism implies a dedication that goes far beyond the limits of contractual clauses.' If this is the case, why

does the Editorial attack 'aspiring professionals' instead of the 'full-fledged professionals', our professors, who are members of a union? The *Excalibur's* position is that we should not transfer our 'faith' from professors and graduate directors to legal documents. This comment misses the point for our contract is with the administration not with the professors. How are we to have 'faith' when the professors obviously have none. If the *Excalibur* believes that this 'trade union mentality' (whatever this is) seriously erodes the relations between teaching assistants, professors and students, maybe they should look further for the cause.

Judy Fudge

Free ad for Libs

I take strong objection to last week's Conversation with Jean Chretien. In my mind it was little more than free advertising for the Liberal party. If you are going to publish this type of article on the eve of a federal election, it would seem only fair to devote the same amount of space to prominent members of the other two major parties.

Maureen Brown

Pen man seeks pen pals

I have been in prison for the past five years for bank robbery. At the present time I am in the segregation unit of the prison. I was stabbed and for my refusal to identify the person that stabbed me the officials have left me to rot in the segregation unit. Seventeen months now I have been locked in this cage.

A little mail from some of your good people would be a big help. I am a white male, 32 years old. I

like good rock music, pretty girls good weed. All I can say is I will answer all that take the time to write. Jackie Martin 04025-156 Box PMB Atlanta, Georgia 30315 U.S.A.

Nix on campaign ad

We refer to the quarter page advertisement placed in *Excalibur* on February 7, 1980 signed by CYSF urging Bethune College students to vote Yes in the Bethune College Referendum held on February 7 and 8, 1980 on the issue of the college joining CYSF.

Campaign advertising is considered to be constitutionally prohibited by both CYSF and Bethune College on Referendums days.

We therefore condemn CYSF and *Excalibur* for respectively placing and printing the advertisement.

Peter Jarvis
Bethune Independence Committee

Roses for writer

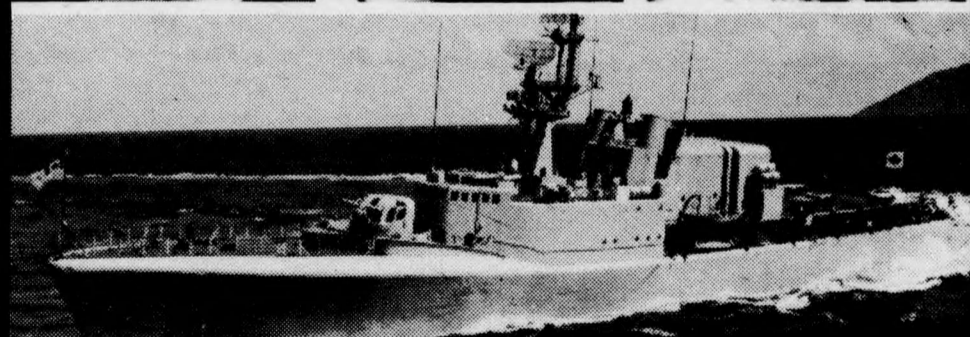
Someone from York sent me a clipping of Debbie Bodinger's very nice piece on my talk which appeared in *Excalibur*.

This note is just to thank her for taking so much trouble and to congratulate her on a nice job—it's heartening to be reported accurately and intelligently!

Fergus Craik

All letters should be addressed to the editor, *Excalibur*, Room 111 Central Square. Letters must be typed, triple-spaced, on a 66 stroke line. Letters are limited to 300 words (seven column inches). Name, address, or phone number must be included or the letter will not be published. *Excalibur* reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 5 pm.

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